

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/614,529

Examiner

Roberts Culbert

Applicant(s)

ROLFSON, J. BRETT

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 5/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-56 and 59-110.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/7/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel Claims 57, 58, 111 and 112.

Rejoin Claims 21-56 and 59-110.

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 57, 58, 111, and 112 to an invention non-elected without traverse in the reply filed 5/18/05. Accordingly, claims 57, 58, 111, and 112 been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under Process claims 21-56 and 59-110 have been fully examined and are hereby rejoined.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-56 and 59-110 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a method of making a photomask comprising: providing a work-piece comprising a substrate having a top surface, a bottom surface opposite to the top surface and an edge connecting the top surface and the bottom surface, the edge defining a periphery of the substrate, wherein a layer of chrome superimposes the top surface and a layer of a photoresist material superimposes the chrome layer; selectively removing a photoresist material from portions of the work-piece adjacent to the periphery to expose the chrome layer while leaving at least one tab of photoresist material covering the chrome layer adjacent to the periphery; removing the exposed chrome layers removing the tab of

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photoresist material, or removing at least one tab if more than one tab is present and removing the exposed chrome layer as recited in the context of the claims.

The references made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent 6,830,853 B1 to Tzu et al. teaches a method of etching a chrome mask. U.S. Patent Application Publication U.S. 2005/0032003 to Lin teaches a method of forming a photomask by etching a chrome layer using a photoresist. Japanese Patent JP 05289309A to Masahiro teaches a method of patterning a chromium mask using an electron beam.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberts Culbert whose telephone number is (571) 272-1433. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on (571) 272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

R. Culbert



P.L.
PARVIZ HASSANZADEH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER